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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/661,459	09/13/2000	Morikatsu Matsuda	000004.000661	2151

27557 7590 12/30/2003

BLANK ROME LLP
600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

GOODMAN, CHARLES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3724

25

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/661,459

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles Goodman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 12-14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 12-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Amendment filed on 10/16/03 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claim 10, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunn.

Dunn discloses a linear punch press comprising all the elements claimed including, *inter alia*, a body frame 20, 22, 30; a table 78; a first positioning device 86, 106, 106a for positioning a work piece in a first direction, wherein the first positioning device includes a first clamp (e.g., 106, Fig. 10) to clamp a first margin of the work pieces and a second clamp (e.g., 106a, Fig. 10) to clamp a second margin opposite to the first margin of the work piece, wherein the first clamp can be moved to approach the second clamp (see e.g. Fig. 10 and c. 3, ll. 53-59 which clearly shows the clamps 106 and 106a with either one adjustably slidably approaching each other); a second positioning device 86, 106, 106a (see Fig. 2) for positioning the work piece in the first direction; a working head 22 positionable in a second direction perpendicular to the first, wherein the positioning devices are arranged in series. See Figs. 1-13, c. 2, l. 31 - c. 5, l. 51.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn in view of Graf et al.

Dunn discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the work piece being a material uncoiled from a coiled material. However, although Dunn is silent as to the sheet work piece being from coiled material, it is old and well known in the art to utilize the device and method of Dunn for punching sheet material uncoiled from a coiled material as evidenced by Graf et al. Graf et al clearly teaches a punching device and method wherein positioning devices 80, 105 are used to clamp and feed sheet shaped material uncoiled from a coiled material to a punching station 1 (see Fig. 1) for the inherent advantage of machine processing economy, i.e. less down time caused by intermittent feeding of discontinuous work piece sheets, that a longer continuous work piece material affords. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the device and method of Dunn with the coiled material as taught by Graf et al for the reasons stated *supra*.

Alternatively, the coiled material has not been given significant patentable weight, since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). Moreover, with respect to the apparatus claims, the claimed “coiled material” fails to further limit the structure of the invention to the extent necessary for any significant patentable consideration since the work piece itself does not define any *structure*. The claims also lack any specific structural detail that is distinctive for the “coiled material.” Thus, for all the foregoing reasons, it is not subject to significant patentable weight.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed January 24, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's basic argument that Dunn does not anticipate the claimed invention, this argument lacks merit. Applicant's assertion that Dunn does not have the first and second positioning devices alternately transfer the workpiece during the punching operation lacks merit. Figs. 8-10 clearly show that the positioning devices are separately and alternatively operable based upon the fact that each device is positioned on either side of the punch head with each side having a positioning motor (74). Applicant argues that in Fig. 10, only one motor (74) is clearly shown. However, Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 4 which clearly shows the motor (74) on each separate positioning device with only one of the motors clearly indicated by reference

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numeral and lead line. Note the same feature below (148) at the top of the Figure in said view.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Goodman whose telephone number is (703) 308-0501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday between 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap, can be reached on (703) 308-1082.

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In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

cg

December 29, 2003



Charles Goodman
Primary Examiner
AU 3724

CHARLES GOODMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER